REMARKS

Claims 13-20 are pending but stand rejected. In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's thoughtful consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §112:

The examiner rejected Claim 16 under §112, second paragraph. With emphasis added to the terms "wherein", the first five lines of Claim 16 are reproduced as follows: "A system for distributing information, the system comprising a client computer in network communication with a server, **wherein** the client computer includes a logical printer, a client agent, and a processor operable to execute the logical printer and the client agent and **wherein** the server includes a server agent and a processor operable to execute the server agent, **wherein**: . . ."

The Examiner asserts that it is unclear as to whether the second instance of the term "wherein" is "pointing to the client or the system. Plainly the second instance "points" to the server. This is obvious because the second instance is immediately followed by the phrase "the server."

The Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether the logical printer is at the client computer or at the server. Immediately following the first instance of the term "wherein", Claim 16 clearly states that the client computer includes the logical printer. There is no confusion.

The Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether the logical printer or the server is configured to launch the client agent. The third instance of the term "wherein" is immediately followed by the passage "the logical printer is integrated with the print functionality of the client computer and is configured to launch the client agent and provide the client agent with a document." It is clear that the logical printer is configured to launch the client agent. There is no confusion.

The examiner's rejection is not well taken as the language of Claim 16 is clear. Furthermore, the relevant inquiry under 35 USC §112, second paragraph is whether the claim language, as it would have been interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the Applicant's specification and prior art, sets out and circumscribes a particular area with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity. *See In re Moore*, 439 F.2d 1232, 1235, 169 USPQ 236, 238 (CCPA 1971).

The Examiner has not addressed the disclosure throughout the Applicant's specification directed toward "an offset web" and explained why, in view of that disclosure, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have reasonably understood (1) that the first instance of the term "wherein" points to the "client computer", (b) that the client computer includes the logical printer, and (c) that the logical printer launches the client agent.

Consequently, the Examiner has not carried the burden of establishing a prima facia case of indefiniteness.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103:

Claims 1-12 were rejected as being unpatentable over USPN 6,859,832 issued to Gecht in view of USPN 6,550,024 issued to Pagurek.

Claim 13 is directed to a system for distributing information. That system includes a logical printer, a client agent, and a processor operable to execute the logical printer and the client agent. Claim 13 further recites the following:

1. the logical printer is integrated with the print functionality of a client computer and is configured to launch the client agent and provide the client agent with a document; and
2. the client agent is configured to connect to a server remote from the client computer, to send the document to the server, to receive a user interface from the server, the user interface enabling a user to enter data identifying a destination for the document, and to return data entered by the user through the user interface to the server so that the server can send the document to a destination identified by the data.

As discussed in detail below, Gecht and Pagurek fail to teach or suggest (a) a logical printer that is configured to launch the client agent and (b) a client agent that is configured to receive a user interface from the server.

The Examiner asserts that Gecht teaches a client computer that includes a logical printer, a client agent, and a processor. In support of this assertion, the Examiner, without explanation, cites Gecht, col. 2, lin8 66 through col. 3 line 26. The cited passage is taken from Gecht's summary section and describes a system for

providing printing services over a network. Gecht, col. 2, lines 66-67. That system includes a client device that serves as a remote source of a print job. Gecht, col. 3, lines 1-3 and 19-26. Gecht's system also includes a spooling server and a printing polling device. Gecht, col. 3, lines 3-10. Printing services are provided by the spooling server which receives and stores print jobs from the client device via a network connection between the client and the spooling server. Gecht, col. 3, lines 12-16. The printer polling device polls the spooling server via a network connection between the polling device and the spooling server. The polling device polls the spooling server to identify a print job associated with the polling device. Gecht, col. 3, lines 16-18.

Nothing in this passage event hints that Gecht's client device includes a logical printer and a client agent. Further illustrating the Examiner's confusion, Gecht's Fig. 1, reproduced below, illustrates the system referred to in the passage relied upon by the Examiner.

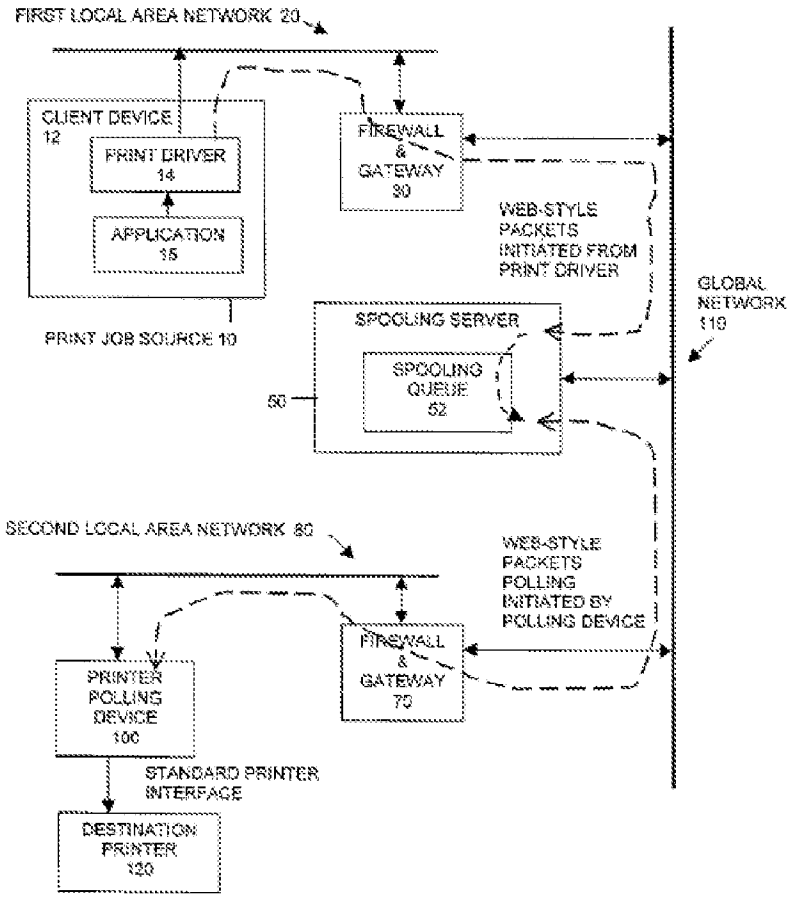

FIG. 1

The Applicant finds it impossible to follow the Examiner's logic as a cursory review of this illustration reveals that Gecht's client device (12) includes an application (15) and a printer driver (15). Perhaps the Examiner is equating the printer driver (14) with the logical printer recited in Claim 1. If so, Examiner this logic is flawed. Claim 1 recites that the logical printer is operable to launch the client agent.

Citing Gecht, col. 9, lines 12-25 and col. 13, lines 6-20, the Examiner asserts that Gecht teaches that "the logical printer is integrated with the print functionality of the client computer and is configured to launch the client agent. . . " The first of these two passages mentions that Gecht's printer deliver 12 may be capable of encrypting a print job or that the client device may include an agent program for doing so. Gecht, col. 9, lines 12-25. This first passage makes no mention or suggestion that Gecht's printer driver is even capable of launching such an agent program. The second passage cited by the Examiner describes an agent program (200) present on Gecht's client device (12) that allows the client device (12) to poll the spooling server and provide the spooling server with a needed document (13). Again, this second passage makes no mention or suggestion that the agent program (200) is launched by a logical printer.

Consequently, Gecht fails to teach or suggest a system that includes a logical printer and a client agent where the client agent is configured to launch the client agent. Pagurek is silent on this matter.

The Examiner admits that Gecht does not teach or suggest a client agent that has the specific capabilities recited in Claim 13. It is noted that one of those capabilities is to receive a user interface from a remote server to which the client agent has sent a document. To address this deficiency, the Examiner, without explanation, cites Pagurek, col. 2, lines 5-41. That passage is taken from Pagurek's background section ad discusses a user selecting a file through a user interface supplied at a help desk. Pagurek, col. 2, lines 19-24. A help desk agent then passes the file name to a print server agent that obtains the file from a file server and selects a printer. Pagurek, col. 2, lines 24-27.

Pagurek's help desk agent does NOT receive a user interface back from the print server agent. Consequently, Gecht and Pagurek fails to teach or suggest a client agent configured to connect to a server remote from the client computer, to send the document to the server, **to receive a user interface from the server**,"

For at least these reasons Claim 13 is patentable over Gecht and Pagurek as are Claims 14 and 15 which depend from Claim 13.

Claim 16 is directed to a system for distributing information. The system includes a client computer in network communication with a server. The client computer includes a logical printer, a client agent, and a processor operable to execute the logical printer and the client agent. The server includes a server agent and a processor operable to execute the server agent. Claim 16 further recites the following:

1. the logical printer is integrated with the print functionality of the client computer and is configured to launch the client agent and provide the client agent with a document; and
2. the client agent is configured to connect to the server agent, to send the document to the server agent, to receive a user interface from the server, the user interface enabling a user to enter data identifying a destination for the document, and to return data entered by the user through the user interface to the server agent;
3. the server agent is configured to receive the document from the client agent, send the user interface to the client agent, receive the data entered through the user interface from the client agent, and to send the document to a destination identified by the data.

As was shown with respect to Claim 13, Pagurek and Gecht fail to teach or suggest (a) a logical printer configured to launch the client agent and (b) a client agent configured to receive a user interface from the server. For at least this reason, Claim 16 is patentable over those references as are Claims 17 and 18 which depend from Claim 16.

Claim 19 is directed to a method for distributing information and recites the following.

1. in response to a user selection of a logical printer to print a document on a client computer, connecting to a server;
2. sending the document to the server;
3. displaying a user interface received from the server, the user interface enabling a user to enter data identifying a destination for the document;
4. returning data entered by the user through the user interface to the server so that the server can send the document to a destination identified by the data.

Rejecting Claim 19, the Examiner fails to address the specific limitation set out in that Claim. Consequently, the Examiner fails to assert that the cited references teaches that which is claimed and, thus, fails to establish a prima facia case for obviousness.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner makes the following statement:

> Gecht disclosed a system for distributing information, the system comprising a client computer in network communication with a server, wherein the client computer includes a logical printer, a client agent, and a processor operable to execute the logical printer and the client agent and wherein the server includes a server agent and a processor operable to execute the server agent (col.2, lines 66-67 & col.3, lines 1-26), wherein: the logical printer is Integrated with the print functionality of the client computer and is configured to launch the client agent and provide the client agent with a document (col.9, lines 12-25 & col.13, lines 6-20). However Gecht did not explicitly disclose the client agent is configured to connect to the server agent, to send the document to the server agent, to receive a user interface from the server, the user interface enabling a user to enter data identifying a destination for the document, and to return data entered by the user through the user interface to the server agent; the server agent is configured to receive the document from the client agent, send the user interface to the client agent, receive the data entered through the user Interface from the client agent, and to send the document to a destination identified by the data.
>
> In the same field of endeavor Pagurek disclosed the client agent is configured to connect to the server agent, to send the document to the server agent, to receive a user interface from the server. the user interface enabling a user to enter data identifying a destination for the document, and to return data entered by the user through the user interface to the server agent; the server agent is configured to receive the document from the client agent, send the user interface to the client agent, receive the data entered through the user Interface from the client agent, and to send the document to a destination identified by the data. (Col.2, lines 5-41).

Rejecting Claim 19, the Examiner refers to the language of limitations of Claim 16 which is directed to a system. Claim 19 is directed to a method and uses different language.

The Applicant's can only assume that the Examiner has failed to examine Claim 19 as the Examiner has failed to address its limitations of connecting, sending, displaying, and returning. Consequently, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facia case for obviousness and the rejection cannot stand. For at least these reasons Claim 19 is patentable as is Claim 20 which depends from Claim 19.

CONCLUSION

Claims 13-20 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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